

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 01563 312054Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-08

COME-00 TRSE-00 JUSE-00 SEC-01 /078 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2488

INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, EIND, IT

SUBJ: LOCKHEED -- COMMITTEE INCROMINATES TWO FORMER MINISTERS

1. IN A JAN. 29 MEETING NOT EMPTY OF LAST MINUTE SURPRISES, THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL RECOMMENDED THAT PARLIAMENT INDICT FORMER DEFENSE MINISTERS TANASSI AND GUI FOR "AGGRAVATED CORRUPTION," AND ABSOLVED FORMER PRIME MINISTER RUNOR OF THE SAME OFFENSE. THE COMMITTEE ALSO RECOMMENDED THE INDICTMENT ON CORRUPTION CHARGES OF GEN. DUILIO FANALI, BRUNO PALMIOTTI, OVIDIO LEFEBVRE, ANTONIO LEFEBVRE, CAMILLO CROCIANI, LUIGI OLIVI, MARIA FAVA AND MAX MELKA. THE INDICTMENT OF THE TWO LEFEBVRE BROTHERS FOR FRAUD WAS ALSO RECOMMENDED. ALL OTHERS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR THE FRAUD OFFENSE WERE ABSOLVED. FINALLY, SERGIO SALIERI AND RENATO CACCIAPUOTI WERE ABSOLVED OF THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM.

2. THE TWO BIGGEST SURPRISES WERE THE VOTES ON RUMOR AND GUI. FORMER PRIME MINISTER RUMOR WAS SAVED BECAUSE THE VOTE IN HIS CASE ENDED IN A TIE, AND THE BALLOT OF THE DC COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN COUNTED DOUBLE. INDICTMENT WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 ROME 01563 312054Z

RECOMMENDED FOR GUI (DC) WHEN AN INDEPENDENT FROM VAL D'AOSTA UNEXPECTEDLY VOTED AGAINST GUI AFTER HAVING SUPPORTED RUMOR. ALL DC COMMITTEE MEMBERS VOTED AGAINST RECOMMENDING INDICTMENT OF BOTH RUMOR AND GUI. THE VOTE TO RECOMMEND INDICTMENT OF FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER TANASSI (PSDI) WAS, AS EXPECTED, LOPSIDED -- 18 TO 2 FOR INDICTMENT. BOTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO SUPPORTED

TANASSI WERE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS.

3. THE LOCKHEED MATTER NOW MOVES TO THE PARLIAMENT. AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF BOTH HOUSES IS NEEDED TO INDICT THE MINISTERIAL DEFENDENTS AND SEND THEM TO TRIAL BEFORE THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT. THE OUTLOOK IS FOR A DECISION IN PARLIAMENT BEFORE THE END OF FEBRUARY. ONE FACTOR WHICH MIGHT RETARD A DECISION IS THE INTENTION OF THE COMMUNIST, SOCIALIST AND RADICAL PARTIES TO TRY TO COLLECT THE SIGNATURES OF A MAJORITY OF THE PARLIAMENTARY MEMBERSHIP IN ORDER TO RETURN FORMER-PM RUMOR'S NAME TO THE LIST OF THOSE ARRAIGNED. IF THE MINISTERIAL DEFENDENTS ARE INDICTED BY THE PARLIAMENT, THEY WILL BE TRIED BEFORE THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT. INFORMED SOURCES SAY THAT SUCH A TRIAL WOULD TAKE AT LEAST A YEAR.

4. THE INQUIRY COMMITTEE HAS TAKEN NO ACTION AGAINST ANY AMERICANS IN THE LOCKHEED MATTER, BUT RESERVES ITS RIGHT TO RE-OPEN THE INVESTIGATION IN THE FUTURE. THE ITALIAN NON-MINISTERIAL DEFENDENTS WILL NOT BE TRIED PENDING A PARLIAMENTARY DECISION. IF THE EX-MINISTERS ARE INDICTED, THE NON-MINISTERIAL DEFENDENTS WILL PROBABLY BE INCLUDED IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT TRIAL. OTHERWISE, AN ORDINARY COURT WILL HANDLE THE CASE. BEAUDRY

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